

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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**OPINION 281**

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic  
name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (Class Insecta, Order  
Hemiptera)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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Professor Victor van STRAELEN (*Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium*).

Professor Robert L. USINGER (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*).

## OPINION 281

### VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "CORIXA" GEOFFROY, 1762 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HEMIPTERA)

**RULING** :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, is hereby validated, and (b) the nominal species *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, is hereby designated to be the type species of the nominal genus so named.

(2) The generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (gender : feminine), as validated under the Plenary Powers, in (1)(a) above and with the type species similarly designated in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 708.

(3) The specific name *punctata* Illiger, 1807, as published in the combination *Sigara punctata*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 110.

(4) The specific name *geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, as published in the combination *Corixa geoffroyi* (a junior objective synonym of the name *punctata* Illiger, 1807, as published in the combination *Sigara punctata*), is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 44.

### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 13th February 1939 Professor H. B. Hungerford (*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) addressed the following

application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, but owing to some mischance in transmission, this communication never reached the Secretariat of the Commission and it was not until Professor Hungerford transmitted a duplicate of his earlier letter on 3rd July 1939 that the present application was duly received :—

**On the question whether the name “*Corixa*” Geoffroy, 1762 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) satisfies the requirements of Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the “*Règles Internationales*” and, if it is an available name, what is its type**

By H. B. HUNGERFORD

(*Department of Entomology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas*)

I desire an *Opinion* concerning the following nomenclatorial questions :—

- (1) Louis Geoffroy in, 1762, *Histoire abrégée des Insectes qui se trouvent aux environs de Paris*, 1 : 478, proposed the genus *Corixa*. Is this generic name to be accepted as of 1762 ?
- (2) If Geoffroy's work is considered binary, what is to be considered the type of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy ?

According to *Opinion* 65,\* the case of a genus based upon an erroneously determined species should be submitted.

This is such a case. Geoffroy writes :—

1. CORIXA Planch. 9, fig. 7.  
Linn. Syst. Nat. edit. 10, p. 439, n. 2, *Notonecta striata*.

However, the drawing on plate 9 is natural size and his description “*Longueur 5½ lignes, Largeur 2 lignes*” represents a species far too large for *Notonecta striata* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 439, and not congeneric with it. Until recently the species figured and described by Geoffroy has been known as *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 12 (1) : 17.

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\* The question of genera based upon erroneously determined species was further considered by the International Commission at Lisbon in 1935. For the text of the decision then taken (Lisbon Session, 2nd Meeting, Conclusion 23), see 1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 23—25. That decision has since been embodied in *Opinion* 168 (1945, *Opinions and Declarations rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 2 : 411—430). [Subsequent to the preparation of the preceding footnote, the ruling given in *Opinion* 168 was amplified by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, and, as to amplified, was incorporated into the *Règles* (see 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 158—159). F.H. 19th August 1954].

Reutter, 1888, considered Geoffroy's work of 1762 invalid since, in his view, it did not as a whole follow the binary system of nomenclature.

Kirkaldy, 1900, believed that Geoffroy's work should be accepted and claimed that Müller, 1764, in his *Fauna Ins. Friedrichsdalina* also validated Geoffroy's generic names in a table comparing Geoffroyian and Linnean types.

Mr. W. E. China (1938, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 74 : 34—39) questioned whether Müller's work validated the Geoffroyian generic names, because Müller did not mention species in his table of genera, although the remainder of the book is binominal. Perhaps we should have an *Opinion* on this point.

Mr. China assumes that the type of *Corixa* Geoffroy, which he accepts as from 1785, is *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1818 (= *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, in Rossi, *Fauna etrusc.* (ed. 2) : 354).

That is to say, he accepts as the type of *Corixa* Geoffroy the species figured by Geoffroy and not *Notonecta striata* Linnaeus, 1758, the species cited by Geoffroy. The question should be settled officially.

As far as I can see, *Notonecta striata* Linnaeus remains a contender for consideration as the type of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy, until :—

- (1) the validity of the Geoffroyian generic names is settled ; and
- (2) the genotype of *Corixa* Geoffroy is fixed as provided in *Opinion* 65.

For many years I have been aware of the nomenclatorial questions cited above, but have been content not to raise them. Naturally, I would prefer to see *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach declared the type of *Corixa*, but I want a ruling to set the matter at rest.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application:* On the receipt of the present application, it was arranged that, in accordance with a decision on procedure taken by the International Commission

at its Session held at Lisbon in 1935 (1943, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **1** : 40), the two portions of Professor Hungerford's application, that is, (a) the portion relating to the general question of the status of names as published in Geoffroy's *Hist. abrég.*, and (b) the portion relating to the individual name *Corixa* Geoffroy, should be treated as constituting distinct, though connected, applications. For the moment, both applications were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 137, but later the general problem of the status of the *Hist. abrég.* was re-registered under the Number Z.N.(S.) 168. Decisions on both these questions were taken by the International Commission during its Session held in Paris in 1948. The decision then taken on the status of names published in Geoffroy's *Hist. abrég.* has since been embodied in *Opinion* 228<sup>1</sup>. The present *Opinion* is therefore concerned exclusively with the individual case of the name *Corixa* Geoffroy.

**3. Publication of the present application:** It had not been possible to make any progress with the present case by the time that a few weeks after its receipt the outbreak of war in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat of the Commission in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. The present application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes publication did not actually take place until 31st March 1947 (Hungerford, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **1** : 258—259).

**4. Submission by the Secretary of a note on the question of the procedure proposed to be adopted in dealing with the present application:** At the same time that the present application was sent to the printer, Mr. Francis Hemming, as Secretary to the

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<sup>1</sup> See 1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 209—220.

Commission, wrote a short note explaining the procedure which it was proposed should be adopted in dealing with this case and also with the more general issue raised by Professor Hungerford (see paragraph 2 above). Mr. Hemming's note was published at the same time as Professor Hungerford's application (Hemming, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **1** : 259). It was as follows :—

**Procedure proposed to be adopted by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in considering the questions submitted by Professor H. B. Hungerford in regard to the name "Corixa" Geoffroy, 1762 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The foregoing application by Professor Hungerford deals primarily with certain questions of special concern to hemipterists, namely : (i) the date as from which the name *Corixa* Geoffroy is to be accepted as available under Article 25 of the Code and (ii) the species which is to be accepted as the type of that genus.

As Professor Hungerford points out, the first of these questions raises also a much broader question and one which is of concern to specialists in a large number of Orders in the Class Insecta, namely the question whether Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins.* is a work which satisfies the requirements of proviso (b) to Article 25 of the Code.

Considerable inconvenience and, owing to the extra work involved, unnecessary expense has been incurred in the past when two distinct (though allied) problems have been considered by the Commission as a single case. In order to avoid these difficulties on the present occasion, specialists who desire to offer observations both on (i) the status of Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris*, and also (ii) on the special problems connected with the name *Corixa* are particularly requested to assist the work of the Commission by furnishing separate communications on these subjects.

**5. Comment by Dr. W. E. China** (*British Museum (Natural History), London*): After Professor Hungerford's application had been sent to the printer, but before it was published, Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural History), London*), who had been

consulted by Mr. Hemming, submitted the following statement of his views in a letter dated 9th October 1944 :—

. . . . If Geoffroy's 1762 work is regarded as invalid (not binominal), then *Corixa* may still be retained dated 1764 if O. F. Müller (*Faun. Ins. Fridrichsdalina* p. xviii, 1764) is regarded as having validated Geoffroy's names, as has been maintained by Kirkaldy (see China, E.M.M. Feb., 1938, p. 34). If not, then *Corixa* is not validated until 1785 by Geoffroy in Fourcroy, *Ins. Paris* 1 : 221 (*striata* Geoffroy the only species). This means that *Sigara* F. 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 691) would then have priority and *Corixa* as the type genus of the well known family CORIXIDAE and the stem of many generic names in the family would sink as a synonym. It is very desirable that the name *Corixa* should survive and I am entirely in agreement with Hungerford that the Commission should promulgate an *Opinion* to effect that :—

The name *Corixa* Geoffroy 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Paris* 1 : 477 (type *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807 (= *Corixa striata* Geoffroy 1762 nec *Notonecta striata* L. 1758 = *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach 1818)) is hereby added to the *Official List of Generic Names* and its use made obligatory. It is not to be replaced by *Sigara* Fabricius 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 691).

6. *Issue of Public Notices*: On 29th September 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. It was considered that this action was desirable, having regard to the fact that, if on the general issue raised by Professor Hungerford (Z.N.(S.) 168), the Commission were to rule against the availability of names published in Geoffroy's *Hist. abrégée* of 1762, the use of the foregoing Powers would be needed if at the same time the Commission were to decide to validate the name *Corixa* as from the foregoing work. The publication of the foregoing notices elicited only one comment. This was from Mr. G. A. Walton (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*), who, while disagreeing with Professor Hungerford's analysis of this case, agreed with him that an authoritative ruling on the status of the name *Corixa* was desirable. Mr. Walton's letter is given in the immediately following paragraph.

7. *Comment by Mr. G. A. Walton (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)*: On 4th March 1948, Mr. G. A. Walton, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Entomologist, Colonial Medical Research



(*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*) submitted the following statement of his views on the present case :—

Only now has the fact that Prof. Hungerford of Kansas University has raised the question of *Corixa* Geoffroy 1762 v. *Sigara* Fabricius 1775, come to my notice.

I think I have laid bare all the relevant evidence in :

Walton, G. A. (1943) "The Natural Classification of the British Corixidae (Hemipt.)", *Trans. Soc. Brit. Ent.* **8** : 155.

In that paper I showed that the identity of the type species of either generic name is really beyond ascertaining. The only real evidence is in the references to Rosel's *Ins.* v. 3. supplem. tab. 29, but Linnaeus gives no length measurements, only stating that the insect has transverse undulating lines. Geoffroy however says the insect is about 12 mm. long (the length of what we now call *Corixa punctata* Illiger). The description by Fabricius refers back to Linnaeus.

It is a matter of personal opinion. I have already stated my opinion firmly in favour of *Corixa*, Walton (1934) p. 160, line 22. But exactly as stated by Prof. H. B. Hungerford I would like to see a ruling on the matter.

8. As a preliminary to the consideration of Professor Hungerford's application relating to the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at its Session held in Paris in 1948 took into consideration the general problem of whether in the *Histoire abrégée* of 1762 Geoffroy consistently applied the principles of binominal nomenclature as required by Proviso (b) to Article 25 of the *Règles*, as clarified by the Paris Congress. On this subject the Commission decided that Geoffroy could not be regarded as having complied with the requirements of Article 25 in his *Histoire abrégée* and therefore that new names in that work acquired no status of availability under the Law of Priority in virtue of having been so published. At the same time—as explained in *Opinion* 228 (the *Opinion* in which the decision taken in regard to the status of Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* has since been embodied)—the Commission placed on record its view "that certain of the generic names published in the foregoing work, being in wide use, should certainly be validated in the interest of stability in nomenclature" and laid down the procedure which it desired should be followed for giving effect to the decision so taken.

## III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

9. The present case was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The discussion of this case followed immediately upon that regarding the status of Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée*, and it was against the background of the decision taken on that question that the case of the individual name *Corixa* Geoffroy was considered. In the light of the evidence submitted, the Commission came to the conclusion that the name *Corixa* was one of the names first published in the *Histoire abrégée* which ought, in the interests of nomenclatorial stability, to be validated under the Plenary Powers with, as its type species, the species customarily accepted as such. The Commission did not feel, however, that it would be possible, without further discussions with specialists, to reach a final decision as to which of two competing names for that species was the oldest available. As will be seen, therefore, the Commission devised a procedure under which it was possible for it both to take an immediate decision on the *Corixa* problem and to leave over for further consideration the one question on which, in its opinion, the position was not quite clear. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, setting out the decision then reached by it on the present case (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 15) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 369—370) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to validate the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. Ins. Env. Paris* **1** : 478 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) ;
- (b) to designate, as the type of the foregoing genus, the species *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* **12** (1) : 17 ;

- (2) to place the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (with the above species as its type species), on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*;
- (3) to defer taking a decision on the question whether the trivial name of the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* until after further consideration had been given to the question whether that name (*geoffroyi* Leach, 1817) was the oldest available trivial name for the species in question and to invite the Secretary to submit a Report on this subject as soon as possible after the close of the present Session ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

10. The gender of the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, is feminine.

11. The decision recorded in paragraph 9 above was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 106).

12. The foregoing decision was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

13. The foregoing decision was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

14. *Consultations initiated by the Secretary in accordance with the invitation addressed to him in Paris in 1948*: In pursuance of the request addressed to him by the Commission at its Paris Session, Mr. Francis Hemming, as Secretary, prepared in the autumn of 1951 a short note drawing attention to the decision taken by the Commission at its Paris Session to seek further advice from specialists on the question of the name to be adopted for the species which it was then decided to designate as the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, and appealing to specialists to furnish advice on this question. This note, which was published on 15th April 1952 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 7 : 208—209), was as follows :—

**Case 16 : Question whether “*Corixa geoffroyi*” Leach, 1817, is the oldest name, available either subjectively or objectively, for the species so named**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

36. . . . the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, when considering the problems raised by the conclusion that Geoffroy's *Histoire abrégée* of 1762 was not a binominal work, decided forthwith to use its Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762. In taking this action, it was necessary for the Commission to designate the species to be treated as the type species of this genus. In his application to the Commission on this subject, Professor H. B. Hungerford, after pointing out that some authors had accepted as the type species of this genus the nominal species *Notonecta striata* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 439) which alone had been cited by Geoffroy under the generic name *Corixa*, while others had accepted as the type species the species which had been figured by Geoffroy under the name *Corixa* but to which Geoffroy had not applied a binominal name ; later that species had been given the name *Corixa geoffroyi* by Leach in 1817 (*Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 12 (1) : 17) (Hungerford, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 258—259). Later in the same application Professor Hungerford drew attention to the fact that Dr. W. E. China (British Museum (Natural History))

had in 1938 (*Ent. mon. Mag.* 74 : 34—39) identified the taxonomic species represented by the nominal species *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, with that represented by the earlier nominal species *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807 (in *Faun. etrusc.* (ed. 2) : 354). At the conclusion of his application, Professor Hungerford expressed the hope that the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, would be accepted as an available name with *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, as type species.

37. When validating the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, the International Commission itself designated under the Plenary Powers the nominal species *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, to be the type species of this genus. In view, however, of the claims which had been advanced by Dr. China that the name *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, was a subjective synonym of *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, the International Commission decided to defer taking a decision on the question whether the trivial name *geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, as published in the binominal combination *Corixa geoffroyi*, should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* until after further consideration had been given to the question whether that name is the oldest trivial name, available either objectively or subjectively, for the species in question. At the same time the Commission charged me in my capacity as Secretary to the Commission with the duty of presenting a Report on this subject as soon as the general wishes of interested specialists had been ascertained.

38. In accordance with the instructions issued by the International Congress of Zoology, the International Commission is bound in a case of this kind to place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* either (1) the trivial name *geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, as published in the binominal combination *Corixa geoffroyi*, (as the trivial name of the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy) or (2) if, in the opinion of specialists, that trivial name is not the oldest trivial name available, either objectively or subjectively, for the species in question, whatever trivial name is so considered by specialists. If in any case it is a matter of disagreement among specialists as to whether the trivial name of the type species of a given nominal genus (in this case, the trivial name *geoffroyi* Leach) is the oldest available name for the species in question with a consequent prospect of continued instability and confusion, it would be possible for the Commission, if specialists so desired, to suppress the older and less well-known of the competing trivial names. It is on these questions that the views of hemipterists are now invited.

15. *Response to the Secretary's appeal to specialists for advice:* The publication of the foregoing request for assistance elicited advice from : (1) Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London) ; (2) Professor H. B. Hungerford (*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*). The letters received from

these specialists are reproduced in the two immediately following paragraphs.

**16.** *Advice received from Dr. W. E. China (British Museum (Natural History), London):* The following is a statement regarding the present case which formed part of the enclosure to a letter dated 21st April 1952 addressed to the Commission by Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural History), London*):—

It would be quite unnecessary and unfair to suppress the older name *Corixa punctata* Illiger, 1807, in favour of *C. geoffroyi* Leach, 1817. As pointed out by Schumacher (1924) and China (1938), Illiger was the first to clear up the confusion over *Corixa striata* Geoffroy (the type of *Corixa*) and to rename it *C. punctata*. Ten years later Leach came to the same conclusion and renamed *C. striata* Geoffroy (*nec* Linnaeus) *C. geoffroyi*. Although Professor Hungerford in his application to the Commission requested that the type of *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, should be fixed as *C. geoffroyi* Leach, he has since in his monumental "Corixidae of the Western Hemisphere", 1948, p. 44, accepted *C. punctata* Illiger as the type species of *Corixa* Geoffroy. In order to avoid further confusion and to preserve the *status quo*, *Corixa punctata* Illiger, 1807, must be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names* as the type species of *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, already validated by the Commission and *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, should become a synonym of it.

**17.** *Advice received from Professor H. B. Hungerford (University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.):* On 26th September 1952 Professor H. B. Hungerford (*University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*) addressed the following letter to the Commission, setting out his advice as to the action which should be taken on the question of the name to be accepted for the species which the Commission in Paris had decided to designate as the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy :—

*Re* the question concerning the trivial name of the type species of *Corixa* Geoffroy.

I believe it should be *Corixa punctata* (Illiger 1807), for undoubtedly *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach 1817 is a synonym and is so accepted by the students of CORIXIDAE.

18. *Supplementary Report submitted by the Secretary in January 1954*: When at the beginning of 1954 Mr. Hemming, as Secretary to the Commission, was engaged in the preparation of *Opinions* recording the decisions on individual cases taken by the Commission in Paris in 1948, he took the view that it would be inconvenient to entomologists if an *Opinion* were to be rendered on the case of the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, before a decision had been taken on the one aspect of this case on which action had been deferred by the Commission in Paris. He accordingly decided at once to seek a decision on this question from the Commission under the One-Month Rule. For this purpose Mr. Hemming prepared the following explanatory note which was submitted to the Commission—by air mail to Commissioners resident outside Europe—on 27th February 1954:—

**Proposed completion of the decision to validate the name “*Corixa*”  
Geoffroy, 1762 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) by  
determining the oldest available name for its  
type species**

At Paris in 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 369—370) the International Commission used its Plenary Powers (a) to validate the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera), and (b) to designate as its type species the species named *Corixa geoffroyi* by Leach in 1817. At the same time, the Commission deferred for later consideration the question of the oldest available name for the species represented by the foregoing nominal species. The reason for this postponement was that, although Professor H. B. Hungerford, the applicant in this case, had asked for the foregoing nominal species to be accepted by the Commission as the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy, it appeared that the earlier nominal species *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807 (in *Faun. etrusc.* (ed. 2) : 354) represented the same taxonomic species, and therefore that the name *geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, was a junior synonym of the name *punctata* Illiger, 1807. On this question, the International Commission invited me, as Secretary, to confer with specialists and to submit a Report with a view to the Commission taking a supplementary decision as soon as it was in a position to do so.

2. The required consultations were initiated in 1952 by the publication of a special note in Double Part 7/8 (pp. 208—209) of volume 7 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The paper so published elicited two very helpful and informative comments: the first, dated 21st April 1952, from Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural*

*History*), London); the second, dated 26th September 1952, from Professor H. B. Hungerford (*The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, U.S.A.*). Copies of these letters are annexed to the present note.<sup>2</sup> It will be seen that both these authorities agree that the oldest available name for the species accepted as the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy is *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, and that it is desirable that this name should be accepted for that species. Further, Dr. China's letter shows that the name *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, is an objective, as well as a subjective, junior synonym of the name *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, each being no more than a *nom. nov.* for the name *striata* Linnaeus which, through misidentification, had previously been applied to this species.

3. Now that the question which was in doubt at the time of the Paris Session of the Commission has been cleared up, it is recommended that the decision then taken under the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, should be completed (1) by the designation of *Sigara punctata* Illiger, 1807, to be the type species of the foregoing genus in the place of *Corixa geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, then provisionally so designated, (2) by the addition of the specific name *punctata* Illiger, 1807, as published in the combination *Sigara punctata*, to the *Official List of Species Names in Zoology* and (3) by the addition to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* of the specific name *geoffroyi* Leach, 1817, as published in the combination *Corixa geoffroyi* (junior objective synonym of *punctata* Illiger, 1807, as published in the combination *Sigara punctata*).

4. The decision taken by the Commission to validate the name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, is one of the few Paris decisions for which an *Opinion* has not yet been prepared, the reason for this being that the preparation of the required *Opinion* has been deliberately held back in order to make it possible to include in that *Opinion* the decision of the Commission on the question remitted at Paris for further study which forms the subject of the present submission.

5. The present Call for a Vote is issued under the ONE-MONTH RULE. Members of the Commission are accordingly asked to complete the annexed Voting Paper and to return it to this Office in time for it to be received within ONE CALENDAR MONTH from today's date, i.e. by 27th February 1954 at latest.

(signed) FRANCIS HEMMING,  
*Secretary to the International Commission*

27th January 1954.

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<sup>2</sup> The letters in question are those reproduced in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the present *Opinion*.



19. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)2* : Simultaneously with the submission to the Commission of the memorandum reproduced in the immediately preceding paragraph, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)2) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the supplementary proposal relating to the type species of the genus *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, set out in paragraph 3 of the paper submitted by the Secretary concurrently with the present Voting Paper" <sup>3</sup>.

20. *The prescribed Voting Period*: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 27th February 1954.

21. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)2* : The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)2 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows <sup>4</sup>:—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)*:

Riley ; Holthuis ; Lemche ; Sylvester-Bradley ;  
Bonnet ; Vokes ; Hering ; Dymond ; Bradley  
(J. C.) ; Jaczewski ; Esaki ; do Amaral ; Cabrera ;  
Hemming ; Mertens ; Pearson ; Boschma ;

<sup>3</sup> The paper here referred to is that reproduced in paragraph 18 of the present *Opinion*.

<sup>4</sup> The following zoologists who were Members of the International Commission at the time of the issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)2 were neither Members nor Alternate Members of the Commission at the time when the case of the generic name *Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, was dealt with by the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948 :—

Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse, France*)

Professor Robert Mertens (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. Main*)

Professor Erich Martin Hering (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*)

Mr. P. C. Sylvester-Bradley (*Sheffield University, Sheffield, England*)

Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

(b) *Negative Votes:*

None ;

(c) *Voting Paper V.P.(54)2 was not returned by two (2) Commissioners:*<sup>5</sup>

Hankó ; Stoll.

22. *Declaration of Result of Vote:* On 28th February 1954 Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)2, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 21 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

23. On 1st March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948, as amplified by its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)2.

24. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

*Corixa* Geoffroy, 1762, *Hist. abrég. Ins. Env. Paris* 1 : 478  
*geoffroyi*, *Corixa*, Leach, 1817, *Trans. linn. Soc. Lond.* 12(1) : 17  
*punctata*, *Sigara*, Illiger, 1807, in *Faun. etrusc.* (ed. 2) : 354

25. At the time of the adoption of that part of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* which incorporates a decision taken by the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the

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<sup>5</sup> After the close of the prescribed Voting Period, affirmative Votes were received from the two Commissioners (Stoll ; Hankó) whose Voting Papers had not been returned prior to that date. Thus, all the Members of the Commission voted in this case and all voted affirmatively.

binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

26. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

27. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Eighty-One* (281) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this first day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

